



EVERYONE
BECOMES
INFECTED AS
SOON AS
THEY MOVE
HERE...

HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME
IS AN ENDEMIC
DISEASE...

POLARIS
IS CATCHING
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME?

NOT THE
VILLAGERS?



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NOT THE
VILLAGERS?

IN THEM,
I'VE OBSERVED
THE SORT
OF PARANOIA
CHARACTERISTIC
OF HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME...

THE
POLARIS
MEMBERS
WHO COME
TO OUR
CLINIC...

IN THEM,
I'VE OBSERVED
THE SORT
OF PARANOIA
CHARACTERISTIC
OF HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME...

THE
POLARIS
MEMBERS
WHO COME
TO OUR
CLINIC...

THOUGH,
IT DOESN'T
POSE A
PROBLEM AS
LONG AS
HIGH LEVEL
SYMPTOMS
DON'T
APPEAR.

WE
HAVEN'T
SEEN ANY NEW
CASES LIKE
THAT IN
DECADES.

HOW-
EVER,

THOUGH,
IT DOESN'T
POSE A
PROBLEM AS
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THAT IN
DECADES.

HOW-
EVER,

...OR A
STUBBORN
BELIEF THAT
THE HINAMIZAWA
NATIVES ARE
TRYING TO
ELIMINATE
POLARIS...

EXCESSIVE
FEAR
OVER THE
VILLAGE'S
PAST
INCIDENTS...

MINOR
AUDIO
VISUAL
HALLUCI-
NATIONS.

STRANGE
BEHAVIOR, A
PERSECUTION
COMPLEX...

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NATIONS.

STRANGE
BEHAVIOR, A
PERSECUTION
COMPLEX...



IT'S
HAPPENING
TO MULTIPLE
PEOPLE?

IRIE,
WAIT!

"THEM"??



THIS
MONTH,
IT'S BEEN
PARTICULARLY
APPARENT...

BUT
THE RATE
IS DEFINITELY
INCREASING.

YES.

HERE
AND THERE
OVER THE
PAST 2
YEARS...



WHA?

RECENTLY,
PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN
COMPLAINING
OF ITCHING OF
THE NECK...

...L5
MINUS?

IT IS
MY MEDICAL
DIAGNOSIS THAT
THE MOST PERVERSIVE
SYMPTOMS RANGE
FROM L4 TO L5
MINUS.



THAT'S JUST
ONE STEP
AWAY FROM
TERMINAL
SYMPTOMS!!




AND...
SEVERAL OF
THEM?!

THERE ARE
MEMBERS OF
POLARIS WITH
TERMINAL LEVELS
OF HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME?!




...YES...



A TRAGEDY
OF THAT
SORT COULD
HAPPEN AT
ANY TIME!

PLUS,
THEY'RE IN A
MENTAL STATE
WHERE THEY COULD
KILL THEMSELVES
SCRATCHING AT
THEIR NECKS.


AT
TERMINAL
STAGES, IT
WOULDN'T BE
STRANGE FOR
SOMEONE
TO VIOLENTLY
ATTACK SOMEONE
ELSE AFTER
A SINGLE
MISSTEP.



OTHERS
CAN APPEAR
CALM ON THE
OUTSIDE, BUT
INSIDE THEY'RE
CONSUMED BY
HATRED AND
PARANOIA.

THERE ARE
DIFFERENCES
IN HOW TERMINAL
PATIENTS DISPLAY
SYMPTOMS.

SOME
SHOW VIOLENT,
AGGRESSIVE
IMPULSES...




ARE
MEMBERS
OF POLARIS
THE ONLY ONES
SHOWING
SYNDROME
SYMPTOMS?

WHAT
ABOUT
THE HINAMI-
ZAWANS?



RIGHT.
THE
PEOPLE OF
POLARIS SEEM
LIKE THE
LATTER...

LIKE
SATOKO,
WHEN SHE
WAS YOUNG...?



SOME OF THE VILLAGERS WHO COME TO THE CLINIC SAY THINGS LIKE "POLARIS'S LIFESTYLE IS WRONG" AND "WE'LL DRIVE THEM OUT, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SACRIFICE OURSELVES TO DO IT..."

IT'S A RADICAL "NEED FOR JUSTICE" AND "SENSE OF PURPOSE."

AMONG THE VILLAGERS, THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME PATIENTS.

HOWEVER...

SIMILAR CHARACTERISTIC SYMPTOMS AND MENTAL STATES CAN BE SEEN IN THE PEOPLE HERE.

YOU COULD SEE IT AS A "SPIRIT OF MARTYRDOM", SO TO SPEAK.

THIS IS NOT THE SPIRIT OF HINAMIZAWA.

CHARACTERISTIC SYMPTOMS?



ALSO,
THEY ARE
EXHIBITING
COMMONALITIES.

"ITCHING
OF THE
HEAD..."

"HAIR LOSS"
AND "HAIR
PULLING"
HAVE BEEN
REPORTED...



"SPIRIT OF
MARTYR-
DOM"

"ITCHING
OF THE
HEAD"...
"HAIR
LOSS"...

THUMP...



AND
THEN, THE
VILLAGERS
ARE SHOWING
SIGNS OF A
DIFFERENT
AFFLICTION?

AND THE
PEOPLE OF
POLARIS
ARE THE
ONES
SHOWING
SYMPTOMS?

HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
RENDERED
HARMLESS,
AND YET IT'S
COMING BACK?

WH...
WHAT ON
EARTH
DOES
THIS
MEAN?



PRESENTLY,
I AM MERELY
A VILLAGE
DOCTOR.

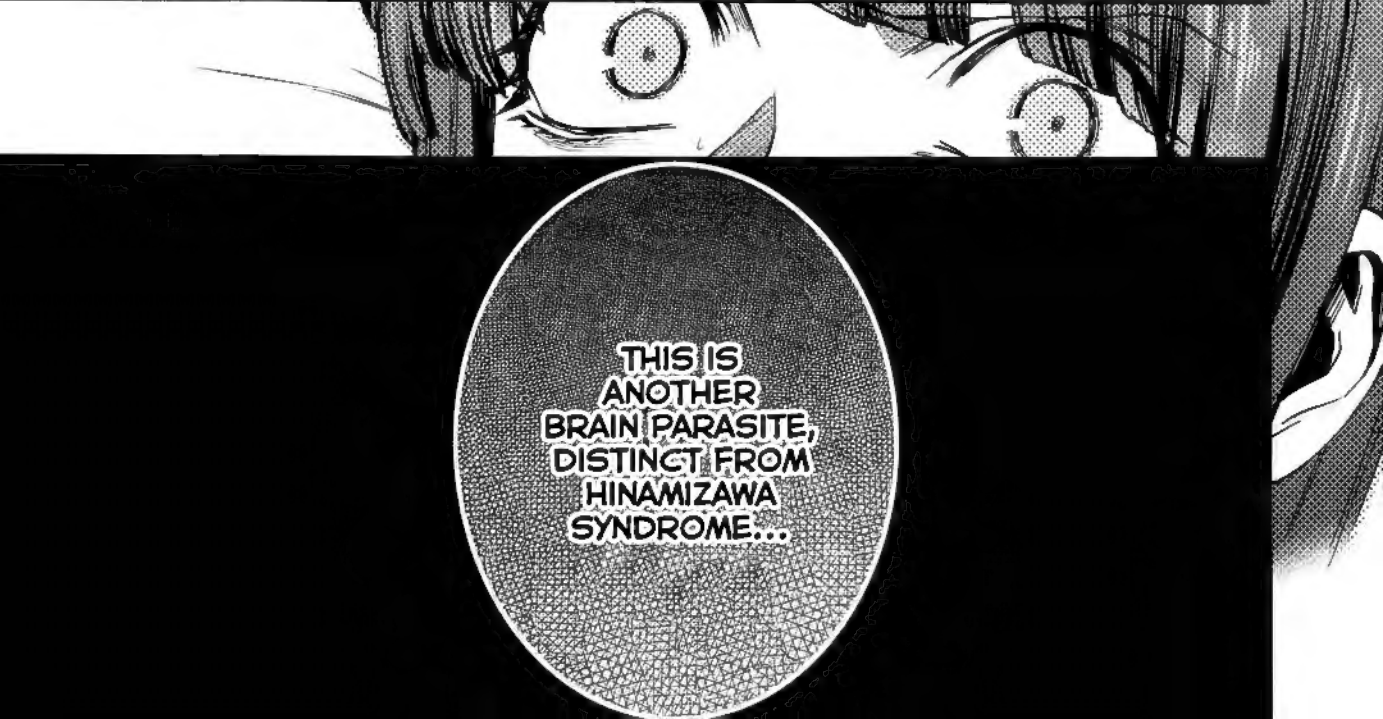
...




SO,
THIS IS
JUST MY
PERSONAL
THEORY,
BUT...

THE
SECRET
LAB AND
EQUIPMENT
IN THE
BASEMENT
ARE NO
MORE...

THE
IRIE
INSTITUTE
WAS
DISBANDED
LONG
AGO...



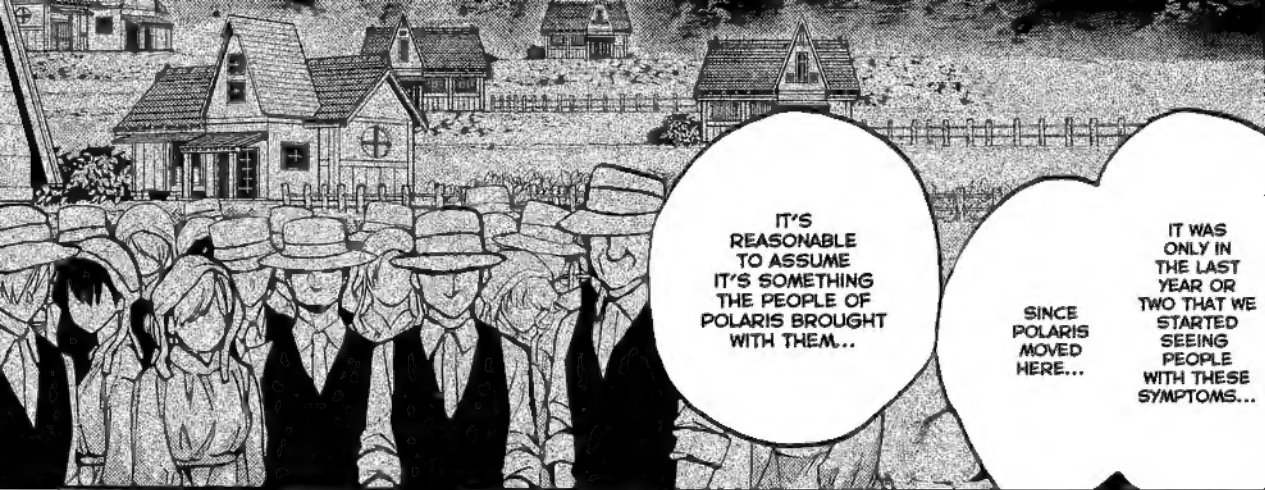
THIS IS
ANOTHER
BRAIN PARASITE,
DISTINCT FROM
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME...



PERHAPS
IT'S A
DISEASE WE
SHOULD BE
CALLING
"POLARIS
SYNDROME?"



"POLARIS
SYNDROME...?"



IT'S
REASONABLE
TO ASSUME
IT'S SOMETHING
THE PEOPLE OF
POLARIS BROUGHT
WITH THEM...

SINCE
POLARIS
MOVED
HERE...

IT WAS
ONLY IN
THE LAST
YEAR OR
TWO THAT WE
STARTED
SEEING
PEOPLE
WITH THESE
SYMPTOMS...



POLARIS
SYNDROME
MAY FUNCTION
SUCH THAT
IT CAUSES
A "SPIRIT OF
MARTYRDOM."

COMPARED TO
THE "EXCESSIVE
PARANOIA" SEEN
IN HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME...

INVOLVING
OTHERS IN
MURDER-
SUICIDE, IN
ORDER TO
PROVE TO
THE WORLD
THAT THEIR
BELIEFS ARE
CORRECT...


IT'S A
COMMON TREND
AROUND THE
WORLD, AMONGST
CULT GROUPS
SUSPECTED OF
HAVING SUCH BRAIN
PARASITES...



IF WE
CONSIDER
THE "SPIRIT
OF MARTYRDOM",
I THINK IT
CAN EXPLAIN
THAT INCIDENT
AS WELL...

AHH... THE
ARSON INCIDENT?
MEN AND WOMEN
OF POLARIS
SLAUGHTERED
A FAMILY MAKING
TROUBLE FOR THEM,
THEN BURNED THE
PLACE DOWN...

RIKA-SAN,
ARE YOU
FAMILAR
WITH THE
OTHER
INCIDENTS
POLARIS
ALLEGEDLY
CAUSED IN
THE PAST?



THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY'D CAUSE A TRAGEDY, GETTING THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM CAUGHT UP IN A SUICIDE ATTACK, IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE A BAD SITUATION?

...IN OTHER WORDS, IF SOMEONE DEVELOPS THIS SYNDROME THAT THE PEOPLE OF POLARIS PRESUMABLY BROUGHT HERE,

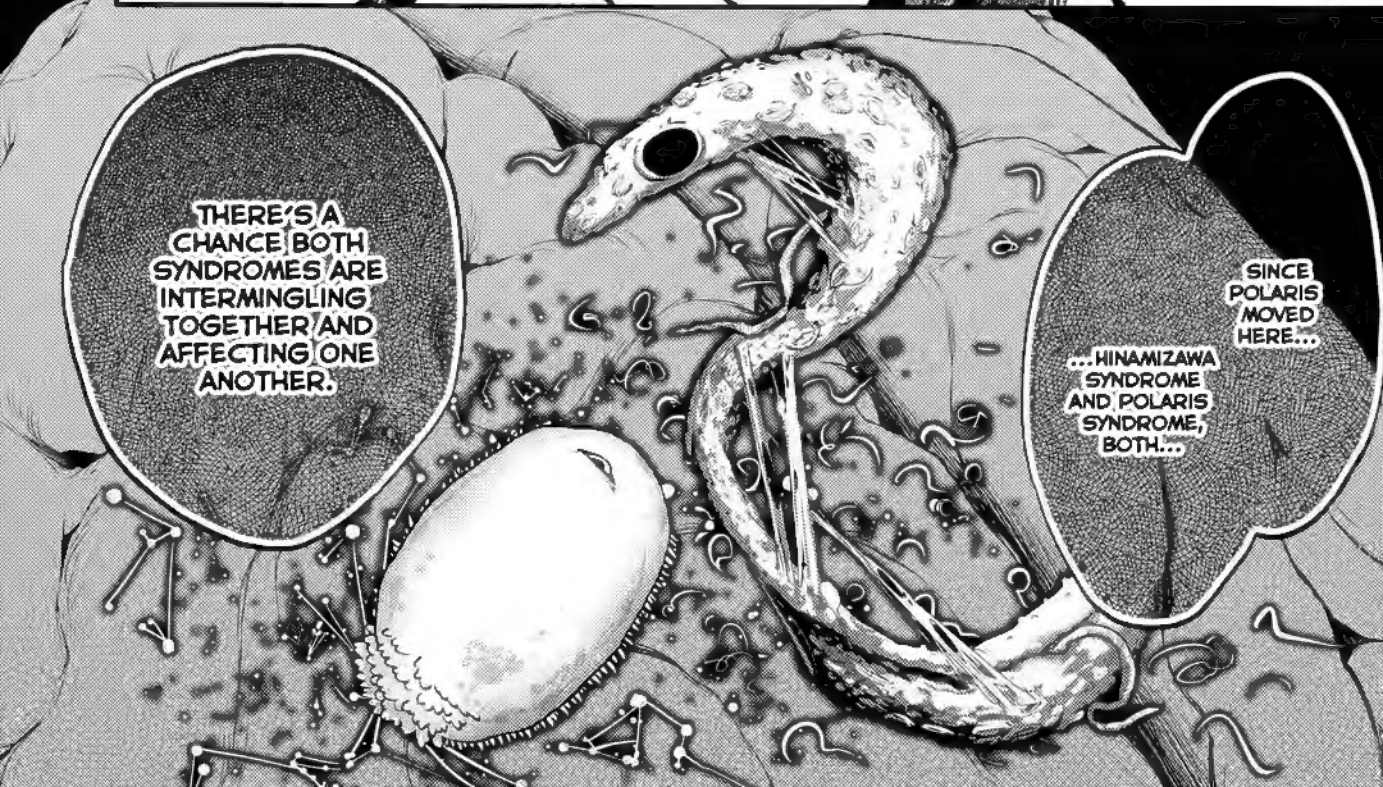


YES.



...HAS IT ALREADY INFECTED THE VILLAGERS...?


THE BRAIN PARASITE INDUCING THIS "SPIRIT OF MARTYRDOM"...



THERE'S A CHANCE BOTH SYNDROMES ARE INTERMINGLING TOGETHER AND AFFECTING ONE ANOTHER.

...HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME AND POLARIS SYNDROME, BOTH...

SINCE POLARIS MOVED HERE...



RESEARCHING
PARASITES, THAT
CAN INFLUENCE
THE HUMAN BRAIN
IS HIS LIFE'S
WORK.

THIS IS
ALL SO
SUDDEN
(AND)
HARD TO
BELIEVE,
BUT...

IRIE WAS
ONCE AN
EXPERT: BRAIN
SURGERY...

AND,
MORE
THAN
THAT,

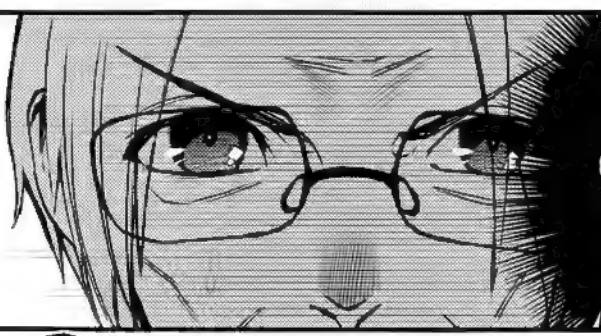


THERE ARE
OTHER
BRAIN
PARASITES
BESIDES
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME,

AND THEIR
CONTRASTING
FORCES ARE
HAVING
AN EFFECT
ON EACH
OTHER...?



THAT'S
OUR IRIE.



HE'S ACTUALLY
BEEN CONTINUING
TO RESEARCH
HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME
AND, TREATING THE
VILLAGERS FOR
DECADES...



SO,
AFTER
THAT WE
DIVIDED
THE WAITING
AREA IN
TWO...

THERE
WAS A
TIME WHEN
A VILLAGER
AND A POLARIS
MEMBER GOT
INTO A FIGHT
IN THE WAITING
ROOM, AND
THEIR SYMPTOMS
VISIBLY
WORSENER.

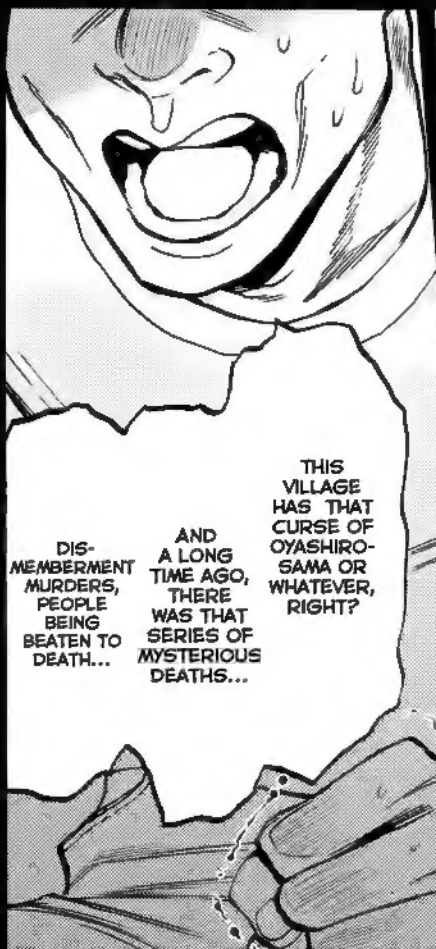
I COMPILED
THE DATA
MYSELF,
AND FOUND
THAT OF THE
PATIENTS WHO
SEEM TO
HAVE THIS
SYNDROME...

ALL OF
THEM ARE
UNDER A
GREAT DEAL
OF STRESS FROM
MANY FREQUENT
ENCOUNTERS WITH
OPPOSING FORCES,
FROM ROADSIDE
ALTERCATIONS, TO
TOWN COUNCIL
MEETINGS AND
SUCH.



FROM
THE POLARIS
SIDE CAME
PEOPLE WHO
BELIEVED THEY
WERE FACING
HARASSMENT
FROM THE
HINAMIZAWA
SIDE,
BUT...

THERE
WERE ALSO
ONES WHO
WERE EXTREMELY
TERRIFIED DUE
TO THE PAST
INCIDENTS IN
HINAMIZAWA.



DIS-
MEMBERMENT
MURDERS,
PEOPLE
BEING
BEATEN TO
DEATH...

AND
A LONG
TIME AGO,
THERE
WAS THAT
SERIES OF
MYSTERIOUS
DEATHS...

THIS
VILLAGE
HAS THAT
CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-
SAMA OR
WHATEVER,
RIGHT?



AND THERE
TOO, CAN'T
YOU SEE
THERE'S
MESSAGES
SAYING
"GET LOST,
POLARIS"?!

...
HERE
TOO!

HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
Thanks to awful graffiti on a
settlement wall and crow corpses
scattered all about, I'm having some
trouble sleeping. Please prescribe sleeping
pills



THEY'RE
WATCHING
US...

PEOPLE
FROM
HINAMIZAWA
ARE SNEAKING
INTO OUR
SETTLEMENT
TO DO THESE
THINGS, AREN'T
THEY?

JUST
THE OTHER
DAY, SHEETS
WERE TORN AND
THERE WAS
GRAFFITI
DISPARAGING
THE HOLY
MOTHER...



DOCTOR,
ARE YOU
REALLY ON
OUR SIDE?

...YOU'RE
NOT TRYING
TO KILL US
TOO...?

DELUSIONS
OF PERSE-
CUTION...

THAT'S
CLASSIC
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME.



WHY
DO THE
PEOPLE OF
POLARIS EVEN
KNOW THOSE
STORIES?

THEY
CERTAINLY
ARE SHOCKING
STORIES,
BUT WHY ARE
THEY COMING
UP NOW?

THOSE
PAST
INCIDENTS...
HAPPENED
OVER 30
YEARS
AGO...

Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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